



## IOWA VETERANS HOME

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Chester J. Culver, Governor  
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State of Iowa  
Daniel R. Steen, Commandant

November 13, 2008

For immediate release

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### **Governor Culver Recognizes IVH Employees**

Today, Governor Chet Culver and Lt. Governor Patty Judge presented the 2008 Governor's Excellence Awards to IVH employees Kathy Drey, Cindy Zahnd, Denise Ulery, Chaplain Angela Doty, Chaplain Rosemary Vaske, and Chaplain Craig Nelson during the Annual Golden Dome Awards ceremony.

Kathy Drey has been involved with TimeSlips, a creative storytelling method for persons with dementia since it began at IVH in 2006. Her passion, knowledge, and enthusiasm is apparent thru her efforts as a Certified TimeSlips Regional Trainer. She has been involved with providing education, training, and consultation to other facilities. Along with her co-worker, Cindy Zahnd, they presented a very well received seminar at this years Governor's Conference on Aging.

Working for over 20 years in one of the first Alzheimer's Dementia Care units in the state, Cindy Zahnd has a deepened awareness of the creative potential of those with Alzheimer's and related Dementias. This involvement led Cindy along with Kathy Drey to develop the Creative TimeSlips story program at IVH. Following each story telling activity Cindy types the stories and copies the pictures for publication around IVH. These stories are also compiled into a book that is printed and presented to the families at Christmas. She is a Certified TimeSlips Regional Trainer providing education to staff and other facilities as well as at the Governor's conference on Aging. Actively supports and participates in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk and is also an Ambassador for the Association.

Denise Ulery was promoted this past year into the position of Contract Compliance Officer in order to fully utilize her vast knowledge and skills developed in over 20 years of service with the Purchasing Department. But twice this year due to unexpected turnover returned to Purchasing in addition to her new duties in making sure the necessary supplies were obtained to care for our veterans. Denise has the ability and skills to simultaneously manage and team lead the oversight of a \$2 million dollar private sector contract while at the same time coordinating the purchasing activities for a large state facility. She takes this assignment in stride and works to satisfy both responsibilities and does it with a smile.

Prior to the development of the Service of Farewell there was no method of honoring a resident immediately upon their death. The deceased was simply picked up by the funeral home of choice. The IVH Chaplains (Doty, Vaske, and Nelson) developed a Service of Farewell having a formal announcement of a service regardless of time of day in honor of the deceased allowing family, residents and staff to gather for a short time of prayer or reflection depending on the resident's preference and escorting the

resident's flag or quilt draped remains to the funeral coach. Over 150 Service of Farewells have been performed. The flags and quilts were obtained through donations so there has been no cost to the state for the program. The positive statements of appreciation from the families, residents and staff give testimony to the significance of the observance for a life of service.

The Golden Dome Awards were established to provide an employee reward and recognition system that encourages employee excellence and dedication for use in conjunction with existing programs by all Executive Branch agencies of State Government. The Governor's Golden Dome Awards are the highest form of employee recognition.

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*Pictured l to r:* Rosemary Vaske, Craig Nelson, Angela Doty, Commandant Dan Steen, Denise Ulery, Cindy Zahnd, Kathy Drey